

Iowa Department of Agriculture Asks Producers and Veterinarians for Help with New BSE Surveillance Program

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), commonly known as ‘mad cow’ disease was first diagnosed in Great Britain in 1986. To date, BSE has been confirmed in Great Britain, Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Japan, Canada, as well as other countries. The United States has had an active surveillance program for over thirteen years and, to date, there have been ***no*** cases of BSE found in native born American cattle.

The recent disclosure of a Canadian born cow with BSE in Washington State has reinforced the need to remain vigilant in our BSE surveillance. Recently the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship entered into a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for this fiscal year aimed at increasing targeted surveillance for BSE. Limited funding was received to conduct targeted surveillance. **We need your help.** We are providing monetary incentives to veterinarians for collection and submission of samples from adult (2 years or older) cattle exhibiting central nervous system clinical signs and/or non-ambulatory cattle. In addition, we are also providing assistance to the producer for the proper disposal of tested animals since rendering is not an available option for the animals tested.

The case definition for participation in this program:

- 2 year old or older Iowa bovine that is:
 - non-ambulatory, or
 - exhibiting central nervous system clinical signs, or
 - chronic weight loss without diarrhea, or
 - recent deaths with history of above

Veterinarian participation and remuneration:

- Phone State Vet’s Office to obtain pre-approval (necessary to ensure limited funds are available)
 - Completely and thoroughly fill out submission form (VS Form 10-4) and supplemental form
 - Collect, prepare and submit fresh or non-decomposed sample (obex portion of the brain stem) to NVSL
 - Fax copy of submission form (10-4 and 10-4 supplemental) to State Vet’s Office.
- Collect **\$125.00**

Producer disposal assistance:

- Producer documents proper burial of the animal carcass (producer disposal certification form)
- Collect **\$80.00**

Producers are encouraged to contact their herd veterinarians if that think that they have an animal that meets the case definition for testing.

Your state or federal district veterinarian can provide you with additional information on sample collection and submission, as well as provide copies of the submission form. It is important that the sample be collected and prepared correctly so that meaningful results are obtained.

Rabies is obviously an important rule-out for CNS cases. The practitioner will be responsible for submitting appropriate samples for rabies diagnosis to the appropriate diagnostic laboratory (not NVSL). Also, any additional differential diagnoses for which testing is desired must be submitted to the appropriate diagnostic laboratory by the practitioner.

The goal is to provide an additional level of targeted BSE surveillance in the state of Iowa. Please help us meet this goal. If you have additional questions, please contact your state/federal district veterinarian or my office at (515) 281-5305.